

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Korea

REPORT

SUBJECT North Korean Mines

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Closing of the Kungsim Coal Mine in Hoeryong

1. [] the majority of the laborers at the Kungsim Coal Mine in Hoeryong (N 42-26, E 129-45) (EB-6298), with the exception of those who were members of the North Korean Labor Party, were sent back to their home towns. Before [] there were 5,000 laborers employed at this mine. The laborers were sent home because the North Korean Labor Party ordered the removal of the mine machinery to an undetermined place in Communist China. [] approximately 800 men who had been sentenced to work at the Kungsim Coal Mine for 2 to 5 years for being members of the Nationalist Party, were transferred to the Musan (N 42-13, E 129-13) (EB-1875) Iron Mines¹ at EB-3060 to complete their terms.

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USSR Inspection Team at Aoji Mining Area

2. [] approximately 3 Soviet civilians, 8 Soviet officers, and 50 enlisted men visited the Aoji (N 42-21, E 130-24) (FC-1508) mining area to investigate a possible site for an underground (sic) oil refinery.² These persons traveled from the USSR to North Korea in four trucks and three jeeps.

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the Aoji area might be chosen as the site for a coal liquification plant which would use coal from the Hoeam-dong (N 42-31, E 130-21) (FC-1108) and Fushun (N 41-53, E 123-54) coal mines. Yi also said that a part of the equipment from the Hungnam chemical plant would be moved to Aoji if plans to establish the coal liquification plant were realized.

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National Nakvŏn Lead Mine at Chigyŏng-ni

3. [redacted] the National Nakvŏn Lead Mine, [redacted] 25X1
 was in Chigyŏng-ni (N 38-17, E 125-10) (XC-8939) at XC-886407. Because the mine machinery had been destroyed, primitive methods were being used to crush lead ore. Twenty tons of ore were produced daily. This ore contained 40 percent lead. The mine, which was managed by PAK Ch'un-sik, employed 274 people, and operated 24 hours a day on 3 shifts. The miners were paid from 1,700 to 3,000 won per month and received a daily ration of 900 grams of grain. Clerical workers received a daily ration of 800 grams. All employees lived in quarters near the mine.

Comments

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1. [redacted] an air strike carried out on the Mosan Iron Mine at EB-2274 resulted in destruction of equipment which probably decreased the operational capacity of this mine 45 percent. 25X1
2. [redacted] the North Korean government was operating a synthetic petroleum factory at Hoeam-dong, Aoji [redacted] and obtaining the raw materials from the Hoeam-dong coal mine. 25X1
3. According to available information, the Nakvŏn Mine at XC-934334 had from six to ten pits and employed 200 miners. Nakvŏn Mine at Chigyŏng-ni was [redacted] placed [redacted] at XC-9126. 25X1

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